DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 169 943 IR 007 230

AUTHOR	Barry, Sharon; And Others
TITLE	There Comes a Time. Societal Support: We're All in It Together. Student Guide--Footsteps. Report Number 17.
INSTITUTION	Applied Management Sciences, Inc., Silver Spring, Md.; Educational Film Center, Springfield, Va.; Maryland Univ., College Park. Inst. for Child Study.
SPONS AGENCY	Bureau of School Systems (DHEW/OE), Washington, D.C.
PUB DATE	79
NOTE	17p.; For related documents, see IR 007 212-233 and IR 007 396; Best copy available
AVAILABLE FROM	University Park Press, 233 East Redwood Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 (Student Guide Kit, one of each program, 1-20, $5.95 per kit); Reference Section, National Audiovisual Center, General Services Administration, Washington, D.C. 20409 (Films and tapes only)
EDRS PRICE	MF01 Plus Postage. PC Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Child Development; Childhood Needs; *Child Rearing; Early Childhood; *Educational Television; *Family Life Education; Family Relationship; Parent Child Relationship; *Parenthood Education; *Parent Responsibility

ABSTRACT

This student guide for a program focusing on things parents need in order to do a good job raising their children and some resources that are available to meet these needs, as well as things that society still needs to do to meet its responsibility to children and parents, is designed around a magazine format to allow maximum flexibility to different groups using the materials. The guide is divided into seven sections: (1) an overview of the theme and contents; (2) a summary of the major learnings of the theme; (3) feature articles containing the major content and including practical suggestions for parents and future parents; (4) a film review section which includes a synopsis of the accompanying film program and a related discussion question; (5) three activities aimed at both individual and group participation; (6) a selection of field activities, discussion questions, and research topics designed to reinforce the ideas presented in the articles and meet the needs of a wide variety of classroom groups; and (7) a bibliography for further reading on the theme. (Author/JEG)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

SOCIETAL SUPPORT: WE'RE ALL IN IT TOGETHER

ED169943

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

There Comes a Time

Student Guide

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL IN MICROFICHE ONLY HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

Anne Rouse

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC) AND USERS OF THE ERIC SYSTEM."

IR 007230

footsteps

A world to be born under your footsteps...
St.-John Perse

FROM THE EDITORS

Children's needs are best met by providing for the needs of parents. When parents get the help they need, they can then provide for their children.

In this unit you will learn about some of the things parents need in order to do a good job raising their children. You will read about some resources that are available to meet these needs, and some ways in which parents can go about finding the help they need. You will also learn about some of the things that society still needs to do in order to meet its responsibility to children and parents.

CONTENTS

The Big Ideas 2
Society: The Larger Family 3
Society's Responsibilities 7
Film Review Section 9
Activity Pages 10
Grab Bag 13
Book Browsing 14

THE BIG IDEAS

- No family can stand alone. Parents raise children best when they feel that they are not alone at this big job.
- Asking for help is not a sign of failure. On the contrary, it is a sign of effective parenting.
- Although it is sometimes hard to find, there is a lot of help available to families.
- Society could do much more, though, to help families raise their children. Parents have a right to expect society to meet its responsibility to families.

Who is on my side? Who?
— *II, Kings, 9:32*

SOCIETY: THE LARGER FAMILY

Just as the youngster turns time after time plaintively to mother or father to say: "Fix it, please," so the immediate family must turn to the larger family — the community, the state, the nation — for services and support.

— James L. Hymes in
The Child Under Six

Raising children is a tough job. Although it can be the most rewarding job in the world, it can also be the most demanding. No one can do it alone.

From time to time all parents need help. They may need someone to take care of the children while they go back to work, or a clinic that provides special health care. They may want information on childbirth methods, or just someone to talk to:

Just as children need the support of families, so families need the support of society.

TODAY'S FAMILY

This is more true today than in the past. Today, more than ever before, we are all dependent on each other and on the web of social institutions. Society has become much more complex. And families themselves are changing. The old image of the "typical" American family — that is, one with two children, a father who works, and a mother who stays home — now applies to only about one in six families in this country.

Today more mothers are returning to the workplace. More parents are getting divorced. More and more families consist of only one parent. And even in families with two parents, it is becoming increasingly common for both parents to be away during the day. Today more than half of all married women with school-age children work. And families are often far away from relatives who can be counted on to help out in a crisis.

TODAY'S NEEDS

This new family needs a wide variety of services, including:

diagnosis and treatment of health problems,
financial aid,
child care,
parent education,
information and referral,
legal assistance, and
recreation services.

Public and private agencies already provide many of these supports. Unfortunately, some of them are hard to find. Too often, however, even when services are available, parents don't use them. They don't like to ask for help. They think that asking for help is a sign of weakness, and feel they should be able to resolve their problems on their own. They don't want to be thought of as failures.

A SMART MOVE

But asking for help is not a sign of failure. On the contrary:

Asking for help is one of the most important skills of being a parent.

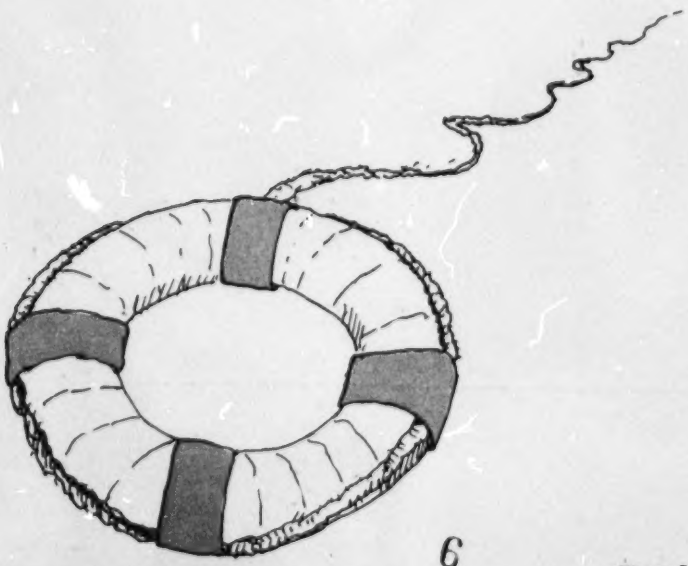
It's a sign that parents want to be effective. It shows that they care about their children:

When parents seek out and accept help, their children are more likely to reach their full potential.

Parents, too, often benefit from societal supports. By participating in the give and take of society, parents may feel less isolated and more a part of their community. Working with others can enable them to grow personally and learn what they have to offer to others. And it's always helpful to know that other people have similar problems.

Within every local community, then, are services that can strengthen families and expand the opportunities available to parents and their children. Parents should take advantage of these resources for:

SUPPORT IS THERE FOR THE TAKING.



WHO'S ON YOUR LIST?

There are individuals and institutions in nearly every community that provide support of many different kinds. Knowing about these services can improve the quality of life for both parents and children. Take some time to fill out the directory below. Use the phone directory, library, or public agencies to help you find information. You may be surprised at how many people there are ready to help you and your family.

Babysitting Services

Contact: Colleges, high schools, women's organizations, relatives, and friends

Name: _____ Name: _____
Address: _____ Address: _____
_____ _____
Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Child Care

Contact: Your State Department of Social Services, Health Department, day care centers, nursery schools, Head Start centers

Name: _____ Name: _____
Address: _____ Address: _____
_____ _____
Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Clinics

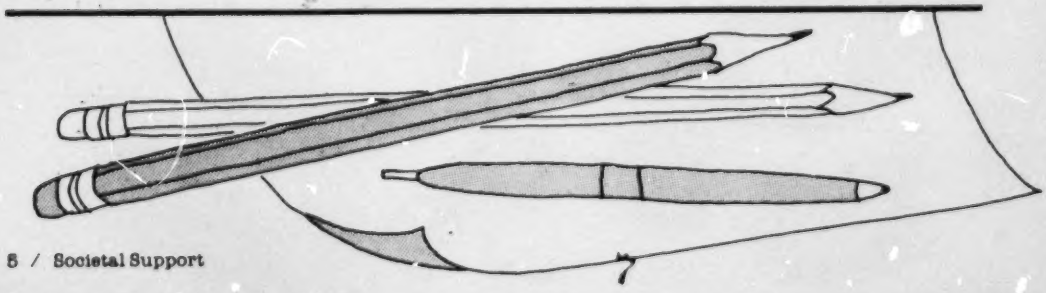
Contact: Your local health department or hospital. Ask about: Clinics for well babies, eyes, speech, hearing, chest, mental health

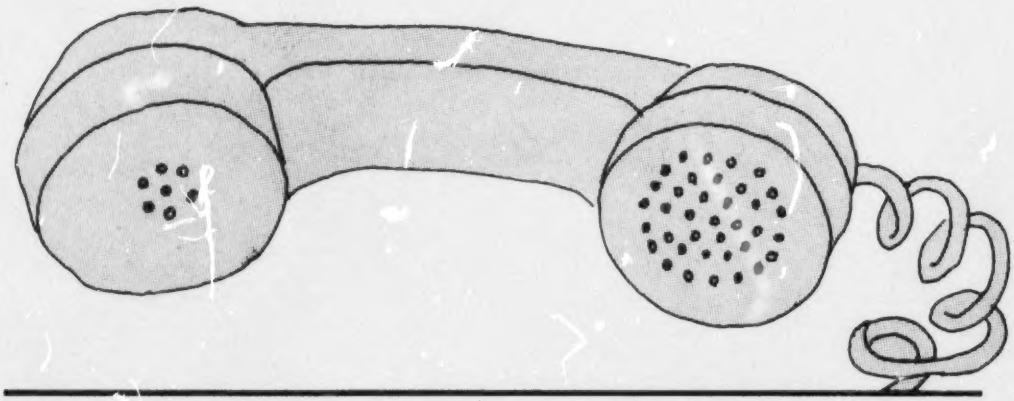
Name: _____ Name: _____
Address: _____ Address: _____
_____ _____
Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Counseling

Contact: Churches, hotlines, family service agencies

Name: _____ Name: _____
Address: _____ Address: _____
_____ _____
Phone: _____ Phone: _____





Parent Education

Contact: Your PTA, YMCA, YWCA, YMHA, Parent Effectiveness Training group, adult education center, community college or university

Name: _____ Name: _____
Address: _____ Address: _____
_____ _____
Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Recreation

Contact: Local and county recreation departments, museums, sports clubs, community pools, YMCA, YWCA, YMHA

Name: _____ Name: _____
Address: _____ Address: _____
_____ _____
Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Single Parent Groups

Contact: Parents Without Partners, Big Brother/Big Sister, singles clubs

Name: _____ Name: _____
Address: _____ Address: _____
_____ _____
Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Health Organizations

Contact: Red Cross, National Foundation-March of Dimes, Mental Health Association, County Medical Society

Name: _____ Name: _____
Address: _____ Address: _____
_____ _____
Phone: _____ Phone: _____

SOCIETY'S RESPONSIBILITY

Family experts agree that if we want to place unbearable pressure on families, the most successful way to do it is to make sure their breadwinners are unemployed.
— Vice-President Walter Mondale

Any society that cares about self-preservation must care about its children. It follows, then, that society needs to support families, for it is within families that children are raised.

It is a sad fact that our country lags behind many others in its support for families. Two institutions in particular — the workplace and the Federal government — have failed to see how their policies affect the lives of families.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

Parents who work face a major conflict. On the one hand, they have to earn money and want to advance their careers. On the other hand, they want to spend lots of time with their children — especially when the children are young. In this country today it is difficult to do both.

Most workplaces are not committed to the fullest development of workers and their families. They don't recognize the special needs of parents. Most workplaces are strict about when and for how long their employees work.

Some employers, however, are trying out ways to give parents more time to be with their children. These include:

Flexible Work Hours, so that mothers and fathers can be with their children at important times
more **Part-Time Work** without penalties
Time-Off for pregnancy and family emergencies
Sick Leave that includes time off to care for children when they are ill
Maternity and Paternity Leave.

Where these options have been tried out, the results have been very successful. Companies have found that such flexibility usually increases production as well as company morale.

Employers, then, can and should take more seriously the demands of childrearing and the needs of their workers:

FAMILIES SHOULD BE PART OF THE BUSINESS OF BUSINESS.

THE GOVERNMENT

It's hard to think of any national policy area that does not affect the lives of families. Housing, energy, transportation, environment — these and many others affect the quality of family life. Two areas in particular — jobs and child care — have a drastic impact on families.

Unemployment: No child should grow up in poverty, but many families in this country still subsist below the poverty line. This affects children not only in terms of the goods and services available to the family, but also in terms of parental pride and self-respect that comes from having a satisfying job with adequate pay.

Some people think these could be alleviated if a full-employment policy were passed, and the laws against sex and race discrimination enforced.

Day Care: The need for child care in this country has skyrocketed. Today almost all single parents, and over half of married parents, must make child care arrangements. But there are spaces in licensed day care for only 1 out of 7 children who need them.

Clearly, parents need more help from society in caring for their children. Providing quality day care at affordable prices should be a national priority.

There have been many suggestions as to how Federal, state and local governments can meet the needs of families. Some of these are:

Creating Jobs to achieve full employment
Providing Income Supplements for parents who can't work or don't earn enough to raise a family
Guaranteed Health Care for all families.

Fortunately, many federal and local leaders are finally beginning to realize how everything they do affects families. But we still have not moved as far as most other Western countries in the direction of creating the kind of environment that families need to survive.

WE, TOO, NEED A NATIONAL FAMILY POLICY.

Society has a responsibility to families. Parents may have to work to improve the ways in which society relates to and supports its members. Parents may have to:

URGE SOCIETY TO MEET
ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO FAMILIES.

FILM REVIEW SECTION

There Comes a Time

Funds have been cut for the day care center where April Hornbrenner is enrolled, and the center may have to close. Sheila goes to a meeting to discuss the situation, and agrees to help look for another space for the center.

Sheila's first efforts to find another location are discouraging, and she wants to take on another responsibility. But Rita, another parent in the group, suggests that the two of them work as a team. Together they attend the board meeting of a church that is considering their request. Sheila offers solutions to the problems that some of the members present, and arguments why the church should help them. Sheila and Rita leave the meeting confident that if they don't get that place, they'll find another.

HOW DID SHEILA CHANGE AS A RESULT OF THIS EXPERIENCE?

11

ACTIVITY PAGES

activity #1
WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

Where would you go in your community if...

...you suspected your child had a speech problem?

...you wanted to go back to work after 15 years at home?

...your child were having difficulty recovering from the divorce?

...you wanted more information on how to help your child learn?

. . . you needed someone to take care of your child after school?

. . . you were a single parent who wanted to talk about your problems and concerns with other people?

. . . you needed financial help raising your children?

. . . you wanted moral support?

. . . you wanted to set up a day care center?

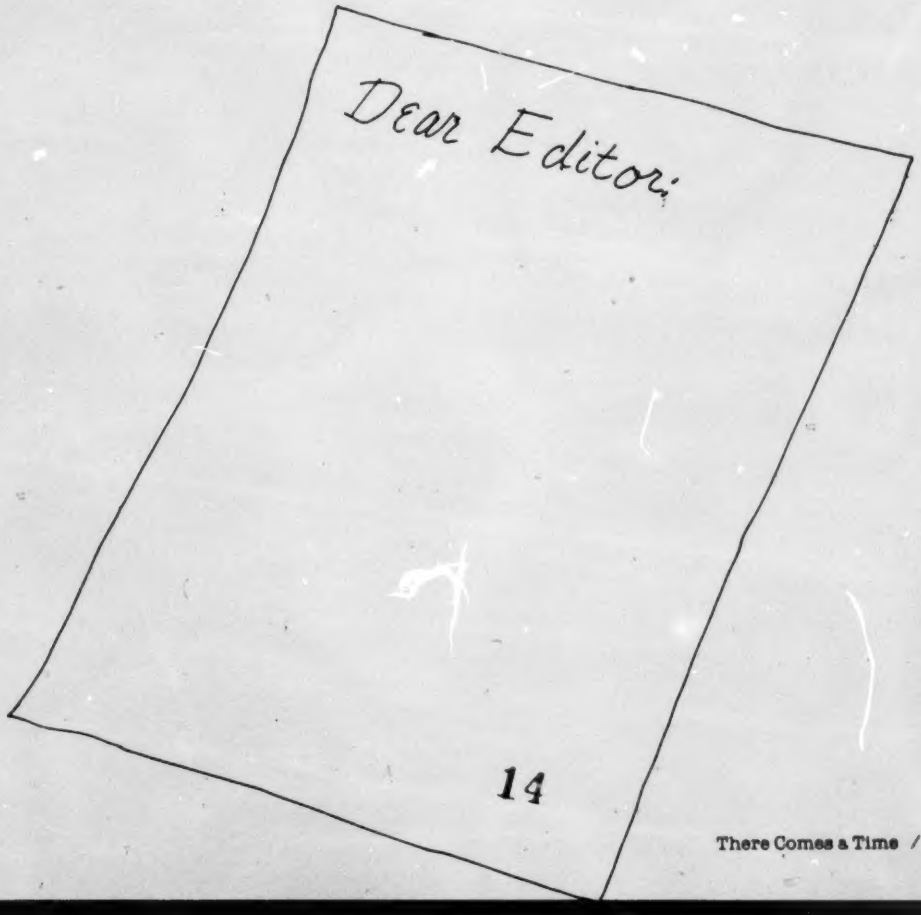
activity #2
YOU BE THE JUDGE

Conduct a classroom debate on the following proposition:

Government spending on societal supports for families is a form of welfare and a waste of the taxpayers' money.

activity #3
DEAR EDITOR

Write a letter to the editorial column of a newspaper in support of more flexible employment policies that take into account the needs of parents.



GRAB BAG

to do

1. Do a case study of one of the local organizations listed in "Who's on Your List?", pages 5 and 6. Visit the organization and talk to people there to find out the purpose of the organization and how it serves the needs of families. Combine your case study with those of your classmates into an annotated directory of organizations for parents.
2. Write to your state or local representative and tell him or her what you think the government should be doing to support families. Share his or her response with your classmates.
3. Find out if there are any businesses in your community that are trying to take into consideration the needs of families. Talk to someone there to find out:

   what they are doing (flexitime, part-time work, maternity/paternity leave, etc.)
   why they decided to do it
   how it is working out

4. Talk to your own parents and to other parents to find out how they think society could help families. What help have they asked for? Was it useful? What else would they like to see done?

to discuss

1. Why is it so hard for many of us to ask for help?
2. How can stores, supermarkets and other public places help families?
3. What are some of the ways parents can support each other?
4. Can societal supports ever substitute for parental responsibility? Why or why not?

to research

1. What societal supports are provided by countries who take more of a collective responsibility for children? (For example, Sweden and Russia.)
2. The recommendations made to employers by the 1970 White House Conference on Children to help workers with the parenting role.
3. Major U.S. companies and governments that operate on flexible time. How successful has their experiment been?
4. Articles written by Urie Bronfenbrenner on the societal supports needed by the American family.

BOOK BROWSING

Here are some books that contain more information on...

...societal supports

Ourselves and Our Children. Boston Women's Health Book Collective. New York: Random House, 1978. (paperback)

All Our Children. Kenneth Kenniston. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1977. (paperback)

Parents' Yellow Pages. Frank Caplan, ed. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, 1978. (paperback)

...child care in different countries

Who Cares for the Baby? Beatrice Marden Blickman and Nesha Bass Springer. New York: Schocken Books, 1978

Children of the Dream. Bruno Bettelheim. New York: Macmillan, 1969. (paperback)

Two Worlds of Childhood, U.S. and U.S.S.R. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1970. (paperback)

CREDITS

Curriculum Development
PRIMARY AUTHOR: Sharon Barry, Ed.M.
CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS: Laura Dittmann, Ph.D.
Robert Huebner, Ph.D.
Joanna Phinney, Ed.M.

Content Development
DIRECTORS: Laura Cotter, M.A.
Charles Flatter, Ed.D.
TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS: Laura Dittmann, Ph.D.
Robert Huebner, Ph.D.
John Kurtz, Ph.D.
Bonnie Tyler, Ph.D.
Martin Bloom, M.A.

Design & Illustration Sheila Humphreys

FOOTSTEPS was developed by a consortium of:

Applied Management Sciences
Silver Spring, Maryland

Educational Film Center
Springfield, Virginia

Institute for Child Study of the University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many people — staff, students, teachers and parents — contributed to the development of these materials. Two people in particular, however, deserve special recognition and thanks: Sharon McIntyre, for her tireless efforts field testing the materials; and June Hamning, for patiently typing — and retyping — these pages.

We also wish to gratefully acknowledge the ongoing support of the Division of Educational Technology, U.S. Office of Education, without whose assistance these materials would not be possible.

© 1979 Applied Management Sciences

Published by

University Park Press
International Publishers in Science, Medicine, and Education
233 East Redwood Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Copyright is claimed until 1984. Thereafter all portions of this work covered by this copyright will be in the public domain. During the period of copyright all rights, including that of translation into other languages, reserved. Photomechanical reproduction (photocopy, microcopy) of this book or parts thereof without special permission of the publisher is prohibited.

This work was developed under a contract with the Bureau of Elementary and Secondary Education, the United States Office of Education, Department of Health, Education and Welfare. However, the content does not necessarily reflect the position or policy of that Agency, and no official endorsement of these materials should be inferred.